

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

UPDATED 2014

A. background [\[help\]](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: [\[help\]](#)

Douglas Ditch Cleaning (WDFW Application ID: 1002)

2. Name of applicant: [\[help\]](#)

Drainage and Diking Improvement District #7

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [\[help\]](#)

Tyler Breum
31718 Pioneer Highway
Stanwood, WA 98292
360-202-3483

4. Date checklist prepared: [\[help\]](#)

8/27/2014

5. Agency requesting checklist: [\[help\]](#)

WDFW

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): [\[help\]](#)

The project will take less than one week to complete. The fish window runs from now until October 15, 2014, so the project will take place as soon as we get the permit.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. [\[help\]](#)

No

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. [\[help\]](#)

N/A

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. [\[help\]](#)

N/A

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. [\[help\]](#)

HPA

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.) [\[help\]](#)

This project aims to restore stormwater conveyance in Douglas Creek between Old Pacific Highway and the sea dike tidegates into Skagit Bay, pursuant to the recommendations arising from a recent Snohomish County Surface Water Management drainage analysis. It consists of cleaning a 7,000-foot, silted-up stretch of the creek (shown in the attached drawing) to the original depth, by removing accumulated upland sediment with a hydraulic excavator. The ditch spoils will then be spread onto the adjacent agricultural fields.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist. [\[help\]](#)

Douglas Creek is located ~.4 miles north of Stanwood and it crosses under Old Pacific Highway as it heads west to empty into West Pass of the Stillaguamish River, in Snohomish County. The project area is the 7,000 foot section between Old Pacific Highway and the tidegates.

The project takes place in Section 14, Township 32, Range 03 on parcel numbers 32032300100400, 32031400400400, and 32031400200200.

See attached Douglas Creek Aerial Profile with Constricted Areas map, Douglas Creek Elevation Profile with Constrictions, and Douglas Creek Channel Elevations Profile.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS [\[help\]](#)

1. Earth

a. General description of the site [\[help\]](#)
Flat, agricultural fields

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? [\[help\]](#)

1%

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils. [\[help\]](#)

The soil type is Skagit Silt Loam. The project takes place entirely on agricultural land of long-term commercial significance. The sediment that is removed will be spread over the adjacent farmland.

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

No.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. [\[help\]](#)

The channel has not been cleaned for at least 4 decades, and Snohomish County engineers are recommending it be cleaned to improve the conveyance of upland stormwater and reduce flooding. Cleaning with a hydraulic excavator to remove built-up sediment and restore the channel to its original depth will begin roughly 100 feet above the Skagit Bay tidegates and proceed ~7000 feet upstream to the culvert at Old Pacific Highway. The project is expected to take four to five days and remove an estimated 1500-2000 cubic yards of sediment.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

No. Better sloping and hydro seeding the channel banks should actually reduce the likelihood of erosion.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? [\[help\]](#)

Zero.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: [\[help\]](#)

All appropriate BMP's will be used to minimize land disturbance. The channel banks will be sloped, and the spoils placed 25 feet from the channel. The ditch banks will be hydro-seeded after ditch cleaning is complete.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)

The excavator will emit exhaust from its engine.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

No

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: [\[help\]](#)

N/A

3. Water

a. Surface Water: [\[help\]](#)

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. [\[help\]](#)

The project involves removing sediment from Douglas Creek. Douglas Creek flows into West Pass of the Stillaguamish River.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. [\[help\]](#)

Yes. The project involves removing sediment from Douglas Creek.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected.

Indicate the source of fill material. [\[help\]](#)

1500-2000 cubic yards of material will be removed.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)

No

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. [\[help\]](#)

Yes. The entire work area is within the 100-year floodplain.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. [\[help\]](#)

No

b. Ground Water:

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general

description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)

No

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. [\[help\]](#)

N/A

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

N/A

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

No

- 3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

No

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

The following BMP and procedures will be observed:

General BMP's

- Drainage maintenance activities shall only occur with the equipment operated from the top of the channel bank.
- Equipment shall not enter or cross the channel.
- Existing vegetation shall be retained on the sidewalls of the ditch to the maximum extent possible.
- Disturbance of the channel banks shall be held to a minimum necessary to conduct the drainage maintenance activity.
- Excavated material will be placed ~25 feet from the ditch and spread across the field when dry.
- Project activities shall be conducted to minimize the introduction of silt-laden water into the watercourse.
- No petroleum products shall be intentionally allowed to enter the watercourse.
- If a fish kill occurs or fish are observed in distress, in-water drainage maintenance activities shall immediately cease and the Area Habitat Biologist will be immediately contacted.

Drainage Cleaning Procedures

- Timing Limitations: Maintenance activities below the OHWL shall occur only from August 1 to October 15 for the protection of salmon.

- Notification requirement: A representative of the District shall notify the Area Habitat Biologist of the start date and prior to maintenance activities.
- Drainage cleaning will be conducted with an excavator and be held to the minimum necessary target width and depth.
- The channel banks shall be sloped such that the resulting channel banks are stable.

Silt Management Procedures

- Prior to initiating drainage cleaning activities, a temporary silt fence shall be installed immediately downstream of the watercourse reach to be cleaned. The temporary silt fence shall be installed across the watercourse and perpendicular to the water flow.
- The temporary silt fence shall remain in place for the duration of the cleaning activity.
- If watercourse flows are encountered that exceed the design capacity of the silt fence, the cleaning activity shall stop until the watercourse flows subside.
- Prior to removal of the temporary silt fence from the watercourse, silt that has accumulated behind the silt fence shall be removed to the greatest extent possible.
- The temporary silt fence shall be removed within 2 days of completing the cleaning activity.

4. **Plants** [\[help\]](#)

- a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site: [\[help\]](#)

☐ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
☐ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
☐ shrubs
☒ grass (incl. Reed's Canary)
☒ pasture
☒ crop or grain
☐ Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
☐ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
☐ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
☐ other types of vegetation

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? [\[help\]](#)

Grasses on the channel banks at some locations.

- c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

None

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: [\[help\]](#)

The channel banks will be hydroseeded after sediment removal is complete.

- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

None

5. Animals

- a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include: [\[help\]](#)

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: starlings, crows, pigeons

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: sticklebacks

- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

None this time of year.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. [\[help\]](#)

Douglas Creek hosts Coho salmon migration during the high-flow seasons of the year.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Removing sediment barriers and Reed's Canary grass should promote fish movement during the migration period.

- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

N/A

6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. [\[help\]](#)

N/A

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?

If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

No.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal?

List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

N/A

7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this

proposal?

If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

BMP' for potential hydraulic fluid or fuel leaks will be observed.

1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

N/A

2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

N/A

3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

None.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None.

5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

N/A

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? [\[help\]](#)

None.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. [\[help\]](#)

The excavator would be operating during the day.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

3) None.

8. Land and shoreline use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

Douglas Creek is surrounding by hundreds of acres of actively farmed fields. The project will not affect current land uses or adjacent properties.

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to non-farm or non-forest use? [\[help\]](#)

Douglas Creek is surrounding by hundreds of acres of actively farmed fields. The project will not affect current land uses or adjacent properties. No land will be converted to other uses.

- 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

No.

- c. Describe any structures on the site. [\[help\]](#)

None.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? [\[help\]](#)

N/A

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? [\[help\]](#)

Agricultural (A-10)

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)

Agricultural

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)

Don't know, but the project is exempt from Shorelines per WAC173-27-040(k)

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. [\[help\]](#)

N/A

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? [\[help\]](#)

None.

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? [\[help\]](#)

None.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

N/A

L. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: [\[help\]](#)

N/A

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

The project promotes existing agricultural use of long-term commercial significance.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)

N/A

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)

N/A

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

N/A

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? [\[help\]](#)

N/A

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? [\[help\]](#)

N/A

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

N/A

11. Light and glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? [\[help\]](#)

None.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? [\[help\]](#)

No

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? [\[help\]](#)

None

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

N/A

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? [\[help\]](#)

[\[help\]](#)

None.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: [\[help\]](#)

N/A

13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe. [\[help\]](#)

There is no record of any recent cultural surveys, buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. [\[help\]](#)

Although the landscape has been identified as culturally sensitive location; there are no recorded landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation. A review of historic maps did not result in the identification of any recorded cultural features within the project area.

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

[\[help\]](#)

The project was reviewed by the WDFW archaeologist. Context for project evaluation was derived from a review of survey and site documents available on DAHP's WISAARD database, a review of DAHP's predictive model. Of most significance was the information provided by a review of historic and modern land-use. The project will take place entirely within the footprint (both vertical and horizontal) of an existing irrigation structure and the work will be limited to the removal of sediment accumulated in the modern era.

- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

The project has been reviewed by a professional archaeologist. The project will operate under WDFW's Inadvertent Discovery Plan, which provides the project proponent with a detail series of steps to follow upon the unanticipated discovery of archaeological or cultural materials.

14. **Transportation**

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. [\[help\]](#)

There is a private driveway from Old Pacific Highway that allows access to the site.

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? [\[help\]](#)

No.

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? [\[help\]](#)

N/A

- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). [\[help\]](#)

No.

- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

No.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates? [\[help\]](#)

N/A

g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

No.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: [help]

N/A

15. Public services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. [help]

No.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. [help]

N/A

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: [help]
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,
other _____.

No utilities are available at the site

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. [help]

None.

C. Signature [help]

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Tyler Breum

Name of signee Tyler Breum

Position and Agency/Organization Chairman, Dike & Drainage District #7

Date Submitted: 9-9-2014